



Welcome

This is the third quarterly FY 2021 newsletter published by the Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission. It is intended to provide timely updates on local transportation projects, area (re) development initiatives, as well as transit and paratransit related news, highway safety, and other activities undertaken by the Planning Commission and our partners. The newsletter is supported in part with funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), and the Planning Commission member political subdivisions.

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Lima Comprehensive Plan

Comprehensive plans, otherwise known as general or master plans, are created to identify a vision for the future of a municipality. The initial plan is used – in part – to establish baseline data for the community. As a living document, the plan shall be updated over time to track progress and adjust to the goals set by the community. Documented plans are a vital resource for local governments as decision makers come and go with each election. A written plan documents the desires of the community and important statistics to local officials in order to eliminate the guesswork in planning decisions.

A thorough comprehensive plan is an invaluable tool for community stakeholders. The Regional Planning Commission has partnered with the City of Lima to initiate the first comprehensive plan since the 1960s. The plan titled “Vision 2040 – Plan. Execute. Advance.” is still in its infancy with a survey open to residents that will heavily influence the goals and action items.

The survey can be found online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/LimaComp and hard copies are available by request with our friends at WOCAP, Lima Utilities Department and the Lima Public Library.

FEMA Floodplain Update

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is in the process of updating flood insurance rate map (FIRM) panels, as well as the current Flood Insurance Study (FIS). These changes may alter the boundaries of the FEMA-identified Special Flood Hazard Areas (floodplains) within Allen County. It is important local citizens review the proposed changes and understand their potential implications prior to final approval. Residents should be proactive in reviewing the proposals as changes could adversely affect property values and insurance rates.

To see how the proposed changes might affect any given parcel in Allen County, residents can search for their address at



<https://fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e7a7dc3ebd7f4ad39b-b8e485bb64ce44>. Physical copies of maps are available for review at the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission during normal business hours. Local officials are also available for

questions at their respective jurisdictions prior to the official comment period. For more information email Adam Haunhorst (ahaunhorst@lacrpc.com) or Shane Coleman (scoleman@lacrpc.com) or call the Planning Commission at 419-228-1836.

Draft FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program

The Regional Planning Commission annually prepares a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) detailing the work it proposes to perform during the upcoming fiscal year (FY). The LACRPC uses the State fiscal year for reporting purposes; therefore, the FY 2022 UPWP reflects a timeline from July 1 2021 to June 30, 2022. The development of the UPWP is mandated by Federal regulation but also serves to provide benchmarks from which to assess Commission progress and accomplishments. The Draft FY 2022 UPWP identifies nearly two dozen separate work elements, as well as associated expenditures of \$832,443 necessary to support the LACRPC committee structure and staff. Fiscal support for identified work

elements comes from Federal and State sources, including Federal Transit Administration, the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Ohio Department of Public Safety, and the Ohio Department Services Agency. In Addition, 21 local political subdivisions contribute \$118, 299 to support local planning services. The UPWP provides not only specific details about the LACRPC, its mission, organizational structure, and responsibilities, but also provides the rationale and justification for planned activities. The UPWP is presented to both Federal and state agencies for review and approval prior to adoption by the LACRPC Board of Directors and includes:

- Tasks to be completed over the fiscal year;

- Identification of all funding sources;
- Identification of Federal and/or State-funded studies;
- Identification of significant studies not funded with Federal and/or State funds;
- Identification of responsible Federal and/or State agencies;
- Schedule of activities; and identification of local stakeholders.

The FY 2022 UPWP is available for review online at the LACRPC website - www.lacrpc.com. Click on the "Reports" left side tab and scroll down to the link to the FY 2022 UPWP or visit the LACRPC at 130 W. North Street, Lima, weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or call 419-228-1836.

Bike & Pedestrian Counts

Everyone Counts!

The Allen County Bike and Pedestrian Task Force needs your help! Bike and pedestrian counts are conducted twice a year at 40 locations across Allen County. Volunteers are always needed to help with these counts. You may be asking, why is my help needed, and why is it important? Accurate and consistent counts provide data to measure the usage and benefits of these travel modes as compared to other modes. It is also extremely helpful as we plan for future bike and pedestrian facilities. The National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project developed a model for counting, reporting, and analyzing bicycle and pedestrian use and demand data during two count periods each year. The basic assumptions

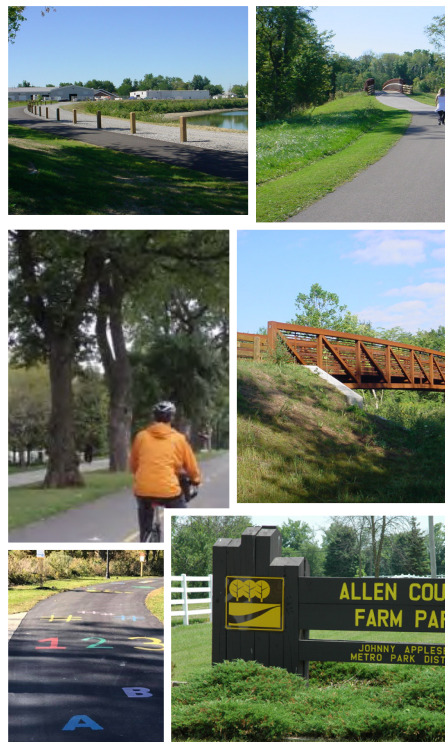
of the methodology are that, in order to estimate existing and future bicycle and pedestrian demand and activity, agencies nationwide need to conduct counts and surveys in a consistent manner similar to those being used by other groups for motor vehicle data collection. Conducting counts twice a year helps analyze trends over time and understand how many people are walking and biking in Allen County. Bike and pedestrian data will also help prioritize funding for future projects and may also provide data for grant applications. The 2021 count periods are May 16-22 and September 13-18. How can you help? You can help by adopting a count location or two. By adopting a location, you, your friends, co-workers, or community group would be in charge of

filling each of the time periods required to complete the count for that location. You can also volunteer to fill a shift or two if it is not possible to adopt an entire location. Locations are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, or to adopt a location, follow the link! <https://www.signupgenius.com/tabs/23677DF05AFC-BECC42-fallbike> You can also help to spread the word by asking others to join the effort.



Bike Trail Map

Now that spring has arrived it's the perfect time to get out and explore all of the great trails Allen County has to offer. Biking and walking are the most basic forms of transportation and both offer multiple economic and health benefits. Activate Allen County, in conjunction with the Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission, is working to bring you the latest, most up-to-date Allen County Bike & Pedestrian Map. The updated maps will be available soon and include trails in the following systems: City of Lima, Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District, Village of Bluffton, and Village of Spencerville.



Allen County
Bike & Pedestrian Pathway Guide

LACRPC Development and Regulations Survey

The Commission asks LACRPC Network News recipients and community stakeholders to complete a survey to understand better the public's view of development regulations throughout the unincorporated areas of Allen

County. This survey will help the Commission improve the processes and regulations that affect all types of development activity. To make participation as easy as possible, we are using an online survey tool. Please follow this link

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/rpcdevelop> to share your thoughts on simplifying area development. Surveys are also available at the LACRPC upon request. Your participation is essential to us. Thank you!



Delphos Fifth Street Road Diet

A \$3.7 million project that began as a simple resurfacing effort grew into a comprehensive plan designed to increase safety and accessibility for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Construction of the Fifth Street Paving Project began in April and is anticipated to continue throughout the summer.

A 2015 corridor study was conducted to evaluate the transportation operations along the entire Fifth Street Corridor. It proposed to identify opportunities to improve safety for both vehicular and non-motorized traffic including the following items:

1. Improve intersection traffic control efficiency.
2. Improve driver recognition of traffic control devices.
3. Enhance non-motorized traffic safety with facilities that meet ADA standards.

4. Address bicycle safety, the lack of bicycle facilities, and connectivity.
5. Improve safety at intersections with improved drainage and ADA curb ramps.
6. Reduce the number of deficient curbs, walks, and pavement.
7. Address the crash history that exceeded the state average for "angle" and "bicycle" crashes.
8. Improve corridor traffic flow by providing the lane capacity based on current and future traffic volumes.

The current four-lane configuration — two eastbound and two westbound — from State Street to Elida Road will be replaced with a new three-lane road diet highlighting two through traffic lanes and a two-way left-turn lane (TWLTL) in the center.

A 5-foot-wide bike path and 3-foot-wide "buffer" area will be featured on both sides of the roadway as well. Road Diets are a proven safety countermeasure implemented to reduce crashes, increase mobility and access, and improve quality of life.

The project also includes the addition of approximately 2,115 linear feet of sidewalk where none exist, repair of existing sidewalks, and traffic signal upgrades including the installation of stop line radar detection and pedestrian signal heads at all signalized intersections.

Over \$1.8 million in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ), Surface Transportation Program (STP), and ODOT Safety funding was secured by the City of Delphos to improve this major community thoroughfare.

Community Development Block Grant (CBDG)

Allen County applied to the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) for funding under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Small Cities, Allocation Grant program; a federally funded program administered by the State of Ohio. The funding and project were delayed due to COVID, but will resume this

year. The County has been granted \$220,000 for the Program Year (PY) of 2020 through October 31, 2022. The County applied for funding to support:

1. Fair Housing Outreach & Education, Allocation - \$7000;
2. Administration & Environment Services, Allocation - \$37,000; and

3. Village of LaFayette, Sewer Facility Improvements, National Objective LMI Area Benefit, Allocation - \$176,000.

The county will begin working on the Village of LaFayette project this summer; bidding on the project has yet to be done. For more information contact the LACRPC.

I-75 Safety Corridor

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Ohio State Highway Patrol held an event on Tuesday, April 20 to share the effectiveness of a distracted driving safety corridor on Interstate 75 in Allen and Hancock counties. The corridor was established on a section of I-75 from south of the village of Beaverdam in Allen County, to the rest areas in Hancock County, south of the city of Findlay, as a distracted driving safety corridor in March of last year. The corridor is designated by a series of signs both northbound and southbound which warn of the dangers of driving distracted.

The signs notify motorists they are entering the corridor and there is zero tolerance for unsafe driving behaviors. The I-75 corridor is the second distracted driving safety corridor established in northwest Ohio. A corridor was placed on U.S. 6 in Wood, Sandusky and Henry counties in 2018.

Although traffic counts overall remain lower due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the crashes occurring given the traffic that remains have decreased. What remains prevalent is excessive speed, with many choosing to travel more than 20 miles over the speed limit. Last

month, approximately 30 crashes on I-75 were attributed to speed.

From January of 2019 through mid-April of this year, approximately 90 violations for distracted driving, and over 2,200 speed violations within the corridor were issued. During this same period, 386 crashes occurred, with two resulting in fatalities. For the previous three years, 400 crashes were recorded with three resulting in fatalities.

The distracted driving corridor on I-75 will remain in place as long as it produces results. "This was intended to be a multi-year, targeted approach to reducing crashes related to distracted driving in this section of I-75, and we believe it has done so," said Chris Hughes, ODOT District 1 deputy director. "The idea isn't just to reduce crashes here, but also to place in the mind of motorists an awareness to drive safely and attentive at all times, everywhere," said Hughes. Similar corridors established in crash-prone areas elsewhere in the state have proven to be effective.

The Ohio Department of Transportation and the Ohio State Highway Patrol will continue to identify and establish distracted driving safety corridors to ensure the safety of all motorists who traverse Ohio's roadways.



Upcoming Meetings

The following table outlines upcoming meeting dates and times for the various standing committees serving the Planning Commission and the local community. Meetings are held at the specified times in the Conference Room of the Planning Commission located at 130 W. North Street, Lima Ohio 45801. Meetings are open and the public is invited to attend.

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE											
May-21				Jun-21				Jul-21			
Committee	Day	Date	Time	Committee	Day	Date	Time	Committee	Day	Date	Time
CAAC	Thursday	13-May	3:00 PM	CAAC	Thursday	10-Jun	3:00 PM	CAAC	Thursday	8-Jul	3:00 PM
DCC	Tuesday	11-May	3:00 PM	DCC	Tuesday	8-Jun	3:00 PM	DCC	Tuesday	6-Jul	3:00 PM
DCC	Tuesday	25-May	3:00 PM	DCC	Tuesday	22-Jun	3:00 PM	DCC	Tuesday	20-Jul	3:00 PM
CDC	Thursday	20-May	3:30 PM	CDC	Thursday	17-Jun	3:30 PM	CDC	Thursday	17-Jul	3:30 PM
CAC	Tuesday	25-May	10:00 AM	CAC	Tuesday	22-Jun	10:00 AM	CAC	Tuesday	20-Jul	10:00 AM
TAC	Tuesday	25-May	1:30 PM	TAC	Tuesday	22-Jun	1:30 PM	TAC	Tuesday	20-Jul	1:30 PM
TCC	Thursday	27-May	3:00 PM	TCC	Thursday	24-Jun	3:00 PM	TCC	Thursday	22-Jul	3:00 PM
EC	Thursday	27-May	4:00 PM	EC	Thursday	24-Jun	4:00 PM	EC	Thursday	22-Jul	4:00 PM
DCC	Tuesday	11-May	3:00 PM	DCC	Tuesday	8-Jun	3:00 PM	DCC	Tuesday	6-Jul	3:00 PM
DCC	Tuesday	25-May	3:00 PM	DCC	Tuesday	22-Jun	3:00 PM	DCC	Tuesday	20-Jul	3:00 PM

*Lima Allen County
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